

○ **What will be the economic advantage of licensing to the public?**

Citizens will be getting naturopathic medical advice from trained professionals, who have a standardized level of education. The public would have knowledgeable professionals to consult and thus avoid the overuse of natural supplements.

Consumers pay less for naturopathic medical care and its impact on the national health care system is less because naturopathic medical care often reduces the need for surgery and pharmaceuticals

Patients of naturopathic physicians participate in healthcare decisions with a focus on preventive medicine. Many of the treatments used by naturopathic physicians are life style changes, which are less costly. Prescription drugs use is one of the fastest growing aspects of medical costs. Naturopathic physicians work with medical doctors and their patients to safely reduce the use of medications and use when appropriate, safe and effective natural therapies.

Some insurers of alternative-care report lower cost for treatment. For example, American Western Life notes a conventional prescription for hay fever, Seldane, costs about \$45.21 for 30 tablets, compared with \$8.10 for a natural-healing alternative – 45 capsules of freeze-dried stinging nettles. The insurer claims savings of between 31% and 76% for natural treatments for arthritis, ear infections and high-blood pressure. In the company's Wellness Plan, medical doctors are often a last resort, after natural cures prove ineffective.

The cost to employers can be reduced as well. For example, the Vermont Automobile Dealers Association hired Bernie Noe, ND to work with the Association's employees to improve their health. Using a program of education and personalized wellness interventions,